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S.B. 165
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Re-referred to Senate Rules and Reference

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schaffer

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SUMMARY

- Requires that the front of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) debit card include a color photograph of at least one adult member of the household.
- Exempts from this requirement a SNAP debit card issued to a household that (1) does not include any adults or (2) includes adults but they are 60 years of age or older, blind, disabled, or victims of domestic violence or they have religious objections to being photographed.
- Permits an exempt adult to have a color photograph included on the front of a SNAP debit card.
- Permits the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, or an employee or contractor of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), to disclose an individual's photograph or digital image to the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) for purposes of this requirement.
- Requires that the back of a SNAP debit card include information about how to report suspected SNAP fraud.
- Requires JFS to consult with the BMV and U.S. Food and Nutrition Service to develop a strategy for issuing SNAP debit cards that meet these requirements.
- Applies these requirements to new SNAP debit cards beginning six months after the implementation strategy is developed.
- Requires that SNAP debit cards issued before that date be replaced with debit cards meeting the requirements not later than 12 months after the implementation strategy is developed.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program debit cards

The bill establishes two requirements for debit cards used to access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP is a federal program administered by the states to help low-income households purchase food products from authorized food merchants. It may be more popularly known by its former name: Food Stamps.

First, the bill requires that the front of a SNAP debit card include a color photograph of at least one adult member of the household for which the debit card is issued, unless the household (1) does not include any adults or (2) includes adults but they are 60 years of age or older, blind, disabled, or victims of domestic violence or they have religious objections to being photographed. An exempt adult is nonetheless permitted to have a color photograph of the adult included on the front of a SNAP debit card.¹ The Registrar of Motor Vehicles, or an employee or contractor of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), may disclose an individual's photograph or digital image to the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) for this purpose.²

The second requirement is that the back of a SNAP debit card include a telephone number that can be called to report suspected SNAP fraud and the address of a website where suspected fraud can be reported.³

Implementation strategy and timeline

The bill requires JFS to develop a strategy for issuing SNAP debit cards that meet these requirements in consultation with the BMV and the U.S. Food and Nutrition Service (the federal agency that administers SNAP). The implementation strategy must be developed not later than one year after the bill's effective date.⁴

All new SNAP debit cards must comply with the requirements beginning six months after the date JFS develops the implementation strategy. A SNAP debit card that is issued before that date must be replaced with a debit card that complies with the requirements not later than 12 months after the date the implementation strategy is developed if the household for which the debit card was issued continues to participate in SNAP. The bill's requirements apply to a SNAP debit card sent by JFS by mail to a household that is determined to be in immediate need of nutrition assistance.⁵

¹ R.C. 5101.331(A), (D), and (E).

² R.C. 4501.27.

³ R.C. 5101.331(A).

⁴ R.C. 5101.331(B).

⁵ R.C. 5101.331(C) and 5101.542.

Rules

The bill authorizes JFS to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act⁶ for the efficient administration of the requirements.⁷

Authority under federal law

The federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 allows states to require that SNAP debit cards include a photograph of one or more members of a household. However, states that do so must establish procedures to ensure that any other appropriate member of the household or authorized representative may use the card.⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-17-19
Reported, S. General Gov't & Agency Review	12-17-19
Re-referred to S. Rules & Reference	12-17-19

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⁶ R.C. Chapter 119.

⁷ R.C. 5101.33.

⁸ 7 United States Code 2016(h)(9).